

**CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION**

**Agenda Item Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Date:** November 26, 2013

**Attachments:** ☒ Yes ☐ No

**CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

**Date:** December 2, 2013

☐ Approved ☐ Denied  
☐ Amended ☐ Tabled  
☐ Other

**Originating Department:** Willmar Police Department

**Agenda Item:** DARE Program

**Recommended Action:**

Discussion only.

**Background/Summary:** At the October 15, 2013 Public Works/Public Safety meeting, Committee Chairman Christianson questioned the value and future continuation of the DARE program. He asked that it be brought to a future PW/PS meeting for discussion purposes.

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Financial Considerations:** None.

**Preparer:** Chief of Police David Wyffels

**Signature:** *David F. Wyffels*

**Comments:** Documentation attached identifying all costs of the DARE program. The Willmar School System was notified due to being major stakeholders in the program as well.

## Willmar DARE Program

### **1. Statistical information:**

- DARE is a collaborative program between the Willmar schools and the Willmar Police Department.
- The DARE program started in Willmar late in 1990 when four officers received instructor training.
- Since then, the Willmar Police Department has maintained an average of four officers assigned to teach the DARE program within the schools.
- DARE was initially taught to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at both Roosevelt and Community Christian Schools in January of 1991.
- The 2013-2014 school years represent the 24<sup>th</sup> year of DARE being taught within the Willmar School system.
- Presently fifth graders at both Roosevelt and Kennedy receive DARE instruction for 14 weeks each semester.
- There are 159 agencies teaching DARE in 413 schools within Minnesota.
- DARE is a part of a large network and taught in all 50 states and 47 countries.

### **2. Number of students affected:**

- Willmar - approximately 8,400 - fifth graders in 24 years.
- Willmar - approximately 4,200 - seventh graders at the Jr. High for 12 years.

### **3. Program impact:**

- DARE is more than just a drug and violence prevention education program. It also focuses on life skills and decision making. It impacts future life choices made by citizens.
- There have been over 50 studies done that show DARE is effective and works.
- DARE is recognized on the NREPP (National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices) list.
- The relationships that are built cannot be measured.
  - Relationships that carry over for years to students in the middle school, Sr. High, and ALC that build trust and communication
  - Relationships with parents that builds recognition and trust for generations
  - Relationships with school staff and administration
  - Maintains relationships with diverse groups of children and adults
- Provides more officer uniform presence in all of the schools and contact with all elementary students.
- Promotes positive image in the community - one of the few proactive programs we still maintain in the Police Department.
- Enhances police officer's "people skills" – public speaking abilities, effective communication with different personalities, learning styles and abilities.

### **4. DARE Program Budget:**

- The program budget is a collaborative effort. Funds are managed by the Police Department but the account is setup and maintained under the school system.
- Program operating expenses average \$12,000 per year excluding officer wages.

- The program budget is funded by donations from the American Legion (\$5,000), Wal-Mart (\$1,000) and drug fine money received by the Court (varies between \$5,000-\$10,000 a year).
- The program budget covers tuition, travel, lodging and meal costs for officer training relating to the DARE program but does not cover officer wages for time spent while attending DARE training. Officer training wages are covered under the police budget.

#### **5. Yearly direct costs to the Police Department: \$6,409.68**

Costs listed are costs associated directly to the Willmar Police Department budget which covers officer wages, for training, classroom preparation, teaching, fund raising, and other DARE events.

- Officer LaPatka directs approximately 8 employee hours in the summer for the DARE program participation in the Willmar Fest parade - \$240.88 wages.
- Sgt. Asmus directs approximately 160 employee hours per year in program participation - \$5,668.80 wages.
  - 2 classes (3 hrs) for 14 weeks (X 2) = 84 hrs
  - Graduation preparation & program (X 2) = 36 hrs
  - Inventory and sorting merchandise = 8 hrs
  - YMCA Fun Night = 8 hrs
  - Training – DARE Conference = 24 hours
- Support staff hours – \$500.00
  - Clerical, (typing graduation certificates, post cards for parade) = 5 hrs
  - CSO's, (Graduation, YMCA) = 20 hrs

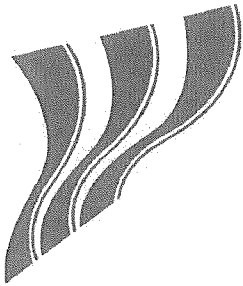
#### **6. Yearly direct costs to the School: \$13,140.40**

All three School Resource Officers (SRO's) teach DARE classes during school time. Those officer wages are paid for by the school through the SRO school contract.

- Total SRO hours covered by school - 440 hours - \$13,140.40
  - Officer LaPatka – Teaches 1 class and handles admin paperwork – 180 hours - \$5,419.80
  - Officer Venenga – Teaches 2 classes – 150 hours - \$4,408.50
  - Officer Schneider – Teaches 1 class - 110 hours - \$3,312.10

#### **7. Total yearly cost of the DARE program within the City of Willmar: \$31,550.08**

- Direct costs to the Police Department: \$6,409.68
- Direct costs to the School: \$13,140.40
- Program budget costs: \$12,000.00



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**Originating Department:** Public Works

**Agenda Item:** MinnWest Lift Station/Lakeland Drive Project

**Recommended Action:** Adopt resolution ordering the Improvement Report.

**Background/Summary:** The first step in the M.S. Chapter 429 process is to order an Improvement Report for the project having bonds sold and assessments levied.

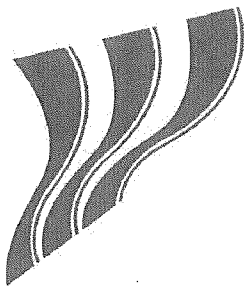
**Alternatives:** 1. Find another financing source.  
2. Do not do the project.

**Financial Considerations:** The project will be funded by a combination of PFA, MSA, LOST and assessment dollars.

**Preparer:** Bruce D. Peterson, AICP  
Acting Public Works Director

**Signature:**

**Comments:**



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**Originating Department:** Public Works

**Agenda Item:** Improvement Projects - Change Process

**Recommended Action:** None

**Background/Summary:** Council Member Christianson referred this matter to committee for discussion.

**Alternatives:** 1. Allow staff to continue to approve field changes.  
2. Bring all field changes through council and committee, which may delay projects and add costs.

**Financial Considerations:** N/A

**Preparer:** Bruce D. Peterson, AICP  
Acting Public Works Director

**Signature:**

**Comments:**